

# AmpliScribe™ T7 High Yield Transcription Kit

Cat. Nos. AS2607, AS3107, AS3103, and AS3106

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## 1. Introduction

The AmpliScribe™ T7 High Yield Transcription Kit is specially formulated to enable users to obtain the maximum possible yields of RNA from an *in vitro* transcription reaction. The standard 2-hour, 20- $\mu$ l AmpliScribe reaction will incorporate up to 90% of input NTPs and produce up to 150  $\mu$ g of RNA from 1  $\mu$ g of the control template. These yields are made possible by the high-performance properties of the AmpliScribe T7 enzyme preparations.

AmpliScribe Kits produce exceptionally high yields of either long or short transcripts. The standard AmpliScribe reaction can be scaled up to produce milligram amounts of RNA. In addition, an AmpliScribe reaction can be readily modified to prepare fluorescent<sup>1</sup>-, biotinylated<sup>2</sup>-, or digoxigenin<sup>3</sup>-labeled RNA.

## 2. Product Specifications

**Storage:** Store only at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a freezer without a defrost cycle. Do not store at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Contaminating Activity Assays:** All of the components of the AmpliScribe Kits are free of detectable RNase activity, and all of the components except DNase I are free of detectable exonuclease and endonuclease activities.

**Control Template:** The control template is a 4.2-kb linearized plasmid, containing a 1.4-kb lambda DNA insert, that will produce a 1,380-b runoff transcript.

**DNase I Unit Definition:** One Molecular Biology Unit (MBU) of DNase I digests 1  $\mu$ g of pUC19 DNA to oligodeoxynucleotides in 10 minutes at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

## 3. Kit Contents

Desc.	Quantity
AmpliScribe T7 Kits are available in 25- and 50-reaction sizes.	
The 50-reaction size kits contain:	
AmpliScribe T7 Enzyme Solution	100 $\mu$ l
100 mM ATP, CTP, GTP, and UTP Solutions	each at 80 $\mu$ l
AmpliScribe 10X Reaction Buffer	200 $\mu$ l
100 mM Dithiothreitol (DTT)	100 $\mu$ l
RiboGuard™ RNase Inhibitor	30 $\mu$ l
RNase-Free Water	1 ml
Control Template DNA @ 0.5 $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l	20 $\mu$ l
RNase-Free DNase I @ 1 MBU/ $\mu$ l	50 $\mu$ l

## 4. Related Products

The following products are also available:

- AmpliScribe™ T7-Flash™ Transcription Kit
- T7 RNA Polymerase
- NTP Solutions
- DuraScribe® T7 Transcription Kit
- AmpliScribe™ T7-Flash™ Biotin-RNA Transcription Kit
- RiboGuard™ RNase Inhibitor

## 5. Notes on Using the AmpliScribe Kits

1. **Template Preparation:** Transcription templates should be linear, double-stranded DNA with blunt or 5'-protruding ends. Templates containing 3'-protruding ends can produce spurious transcripts due to nonspecific initiation. PCR products and cDNA can also be used as templates, provided that the appropriate promoter has been incorporated into one of the primers used.

The quality of the DNA template directly affects the quantity and quality of the RNA produced. Generally, DNA is of sufficient quality for use if it is free of contaminating RNases and can be completely digested with restriction enzymes. To confirm that a template is fully linearized and intact, examine the DNA on an ethidium-stained agarose or polyacrylamide gel prior to use.

Templates that give low yields or less than full-length transcripts may contain RNases or other contaminants. Such templates will usually give better results after the following treatment:

- a) Add Proteinase K to 100-200 µg/ml and SDS to 0.5% final concentrations.
- b) Incubate for 30-60 minutes at 37°C.
- c) Extract with an equal volume of a 1:1 mixture of TE-saturated phenol/chloroform.
- d) Ethanol-precipitate.
- e) Gently remove the supernatant and rinse the pellet with 70% ethanol.
- f) Resuspend at 1.0 µg/µl in RNase-Free T<sub>10</sub>E<sub>1</sub> (10 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 1 mM EDTA).

Amount of Control Template	Yield of RNA
1,000 ng (1 µg)	130-160 µg
500 ng (0.5 µg)	110-130 µg
100 ng (0.1 µg)	30-50 µg
50 ng (0.05 µg)	15-25 µg
10 ng (0.01 µg)	10-20 µg
1 ng (0.001 µg)	3-8 µg

**Table 1. Yield of RNA from reduced amounts of control template DNA from a standard 20-µl, 2-hour AmpliScribe T7™ High Yield Transcription Reaction.** Results may vary depending on the template.

2. **Template Efficiency:** Linearized plasmid templates and PCR product templates that produce transcripts of equivalent sizes are utilized with equal efficiency by the AmpliScribe Kits. The T7 Control DNA Template produces 150 µg of a ~1.4-kb RNA per 1 µg of DNA template in a standard 20-µl, AmpliScribe T7 reaction. Different templates may give different yields. Lower yields from an experimental template could be due to:
  - a) *Quality of template prep:* Degraded templates, RNases, or contaminants such as phenol, trace metals, and SDS may reduce yields.
  - b) *Transcriptional efficiency:* Different templates may be transcribed more or less efficiently based on promoter strength, reinitiation rate, and termination efficiency.
  - c) *Size of the template:* Yields may also differ based on the size of the template.
3. **Amount of Template:** The standard 20-µl, 2-hour AmpliScribe reaction is optimized for transcription using 1 µg of linearized DNA template; however, lower amounts of DNA template can be used successfully. Table 1 summarizes our experiences with reducing the amount of control DNA template in a standard AmpliScribe T7 reaction. Results may vary depending on the template used. Increasing the reaction time to 4-6 hours **may** increase the yield of RNA.
4. **Reaction Assembly:** *Assemble an AmpliScribe reaction at room temperature!* Assembly of the reaction at temperatures lower than 22°C can result in formation of an insoluble precipitate. Storing the AmpliScribe 10X Reaction Buffer at -70°C may result in the formation of a white precipitate. If this happens, heat the tube to 37°C for 5 minutes and mix thoroughly to resuspend the precipitate.
5. **Optimizing the Reaction:** The recommended reaction conditions should give excellent results with most templates. Modifying the protocol may, however, improve results with some templates. One way to increase yield is to extend the incubation to 4-6 hours. A second way to increase yield in some cases is to raise the template concentration. Finally, increasing the reaction temperature from 37°C to 42°C may also improve the yield.
6. **Yield of “Short” RNA Transcripts:** Although the number of micrograms of short RNA produced in a standard AmpliScribe reaction is small compared to the yield of long transcripts, the number of moles of short RNA produced is often equal to the number of moles of long RNA produced.

## 6. Standard AmpliScribe High Yield Transcription Reaction

### For use with the AmpliScribe T7 Enzyme Solution

**Important!** Combine the following reaction components at room temperature in the order given (see Note 4):

x µl	RNase-Free water
1 µg	linearized template DNA with appropriate promoter (see Note 3)
2 µl	10X AmpliScribe T7 Reaction Buffer
1.5 µl	100 mM ATP
1.5 µl	100 mM CTP
1.5 µl	100 mM GTP
1.5 µl	100 mM UTP
2 µl	100 mM DTT
0.5 µl	RiboGuard RNase Inhibitor
2 µl	AmpliScribe T7 Enzyme Solution
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20 µl	Total reaction volume

## 7. Scaled-Up AmpliScribe High Yield Transcription Reaction

An AmpliScribe reaction can be scaled up to produce milligram amounts of RNA. To maximize RNA yield, all reaction components, including the template DNA, should be scaled up proportionally.

**Important!** Bring all reaction components, except the AmpliScribe Enzyme Solution, to room temperature, then:

1. Combine and mix the appropriate volume of each reaction component, except the AmpliScribe Enzyme Solution, in the order given in the *Standard AmpliScribe High Yield Transcription Reaction* procedure.
2. Add the appropriate volume of the AmpliScribe Enzyme Solution and mix.
3. Incubate the reaction for 2 hours at 37°C.
4. Optional: Treat the sample with RNase-Free DNase I to remove template DNA and purify the RNA as described on the following page.

## 8. DNase I Treatment

If removal of the DNA template is desired, digest the sample with RNase-free DNase I.

1. Add 1 µl (1 MBU) of RNase-Free DNase I to the standard 20-µl AmpliScribe Transcription reaction and incubate for 15 minutes at 37°C.
2. Extract with TE-saturated phenol/chloroform, followed by chloroform. Ethanol-precipitate the RNA or precipitate the RNA using ammonium acetate as described in *Purification of the RNA*.

## 9. Purification of the RNA

RNA transcripts >100 bases can be purified by ammonium acetate precipitation without ethanol. This method selectively precipitates RNA while leaving much (but not all) of the DNA, protein, and unincorporated NTPs in the supernatant.

1. Add one volume of 5 M ammonium acetate (20 µl for the standard AmpliScribe reaction).
2. Incubate on ice for 10-15 minutes.
3. Centrifuge at high speed (e.g., ≥10,000 x g) for 10-15 minutes at room temperature or 4°C.
4. Wash the pellet in 70% ethanol.
5. Store the RNA at –20°C or –70°C as a dry pellet or resuspended in RNase-Free Water, T<sub>10</sub>E<sub>1</sub>, or other suitable buffer.

For RNA transcripts <100 bases, remove the unincorporated NTPs by chromatography followed by ethanol precipitation.

1. Remove unincorporated NTPs by spin-column chromatography. For commercially available columns, follow the manufacturer's instructions for this step.
2. Add sodium acetate to a final concentration of 0.3 M, followed by 2.5 volumes of ethanol.
3. Incubate at –20°C for 30 minutes and collect the RNA by centrifugation.
4. Remove the supernatant carefully with a pipette and gently rinse the pellet with 70% ethanol.
5. Store the RNA at –20°C or –70°C as a dry pellet or resuspended in RNase-Free Water, T<sub>10</sub>E<sub>1</sub>, or other suitable buffer.

## 10. Preparing Nonradioactively Labeled RNA Using the AmpliScribe High Yield Transcription Kits

Fluorescent-labeled RNA can be prepared by either direct incorporation of fluorescent-labeled NTPs in a T7 AmpliScribe reaction or by post-transcriptional labeling of the RNA with fluorescent compounds. The protocol provided here describes direct incorporation of Cy<sup>5</sup>-UTP into RNA in an AmpliScribe reaction. For a detailed protocol for incorporating fluorescein-12-UTP and fluorescein-12-CTP or for post-transcriptional labeling with Cy3, see DeLong, E.F. *et al.*<sup>1</sup> Biotin-labeled<sup>2</sup> and digoxigenin-labeled<sup>3</sup> RNA can also be prepared by the modifying the standard AmpliScribe reaction.

- Important!** Combine the following reaction components at room temperature in the order given (see Note 4):
  - x  $\mu$ l RNase-Free water
  - 1  $\mu$ g linearized template DNA with T7 promoter
  - 2  $\mu$ l 10X AmpliScribe T7 Reaction Buffer
  - 1.5  $\mu$ l 100 mM ATP
  - 1.5  $\mu$ l 100 mM CTP
  - 1.5  $\mu$ l 100 mM GTP
  - 1  $\mu$ l 100 mM UTP
  - 6  $\mu$ l 4 mM Cy5-UTP
  - 2  $\mu$ l 100 mM DTT
  - 0.5  $\mu$ l RiboGuard RNase Inhibitor
  - 2  $\mu$ l AmpliScribe T7 Enzyme Solution

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20  $\mu$ l Total reaction volume
- Incubate at 37°C for 2 hours.
- Optional: Treat the sample with RNase-Free DNase I to remove template DNA and purify the fluorescent-labeled RNA, or as described in the product literature for Cy5-UTP.

## 11. References

- DeLong, E.F. *et al.*, (1999) *Appl. and Environ. Microbiol.*, **56**, 5554.
- Hoffman, L.M. and Johnson, M.G. (1994) *BioTechniques* **17**, 372.
- Kaplan, E.D. *et al.*, (1996) *Epicentre Forum*, **3** (2), 1.

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